

**Papago Reserve Gets  
A MWR Office...**  
WELFARE  
RECREATION  
See Story Page 3

**RAOC in Iraq - A  
Three Part Series...**  
Welcome Home 258  
RAOC  
See Story Page 4-5

**257th Engineering  
Unit Prepares to  
Deploy...**  
See Story Page 7

# Helio graph

123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Spring 2004

## Information & Events

### Rape Escape Class

One in four women will be raped! Are you 100% confident you would know how to protect yourself if you were in danger of being raped? This highly realistic class teaches techniques that are full contact responses to full power attacks by male role players. You will leave this class feeling more confident! Registration is limited! Please call 602-267-2813 for more information.

### Kids Camp

The Arizona National Guard is looking for kids ages 9-18 years of age to participate in the Summer Youth Camp held at Camp Navajo from August 13-16, 2004. Participants need to be the child/legal dependant of an Arizona National Guard member. The cost to participate is \$40.00 per child or \$10.00 for adult volunteers. Space is limited so get your application at [www.az.ngb.army.mil](http://www.az.ngb.army.mil) and turn it in by the July 1, 2004 deadline. For more information contact, [jan.finney@az.ngb.army.mil](mailto:jan.finney@az.ngb.army.mil) or call 602-267-2593 or 520-295-6566.

### National Guard License Plates

Display your pride everywhere you drive with a special National Guard license plate! Proceeds from these plates help to fund YOUR MWR office. Contact Rebecca Felty at 602-267-2813 for more information.

### Arizona Army National Guard Fun Run

The MAY 2004 AZ ARNG FUN RUN is scheduled for Friday, May 21, 2004 in conjunction with AZNG Earth Day 2004 activities. "Qualified Recycling Programs" will be the theme of this year's event. Activities will be held on PPMR, with the warm-up for the Fun Run beginning at 6:00 a.m. The run will kick off at 6:15. Directly following the Fun Run, the FMO's Environmental Office will host a post clean-up. Trash bags, gloves and safety vests will be provided to all volunteers. The remainder of the day will be filled with displays and an FMO hosted lunch. We hope to see everyone there! Don't forget to bring sun screen and a big hat to protect your skin and eyes while we spruce-up the post!

### Free Pet Boarding

The Canine Country Club of Phoenix provides free boarding at the other related services for dogs and pets of soldiers who are deployed or deploying for active duty. For more information, call the Canine Country Club at 602-244-8171.

Visit the MWR Office to  
purchase discount tickets for  
Six Flags Magic Mountain  
and Lego Land!



## Wong - In Memory of an American Soldier

By Spc Crystal Reidy

### Soldier's Creed

*I am an American Soldier.  
I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve  
the people of the United States  
and live the Army Values.  
I will always place the mission first.  
I will never accept defeat.  
I will never quit.  
I will never leave a fallen comrade.  
I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough,  
trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and  
drills. I always maintain my arms,  
my equipment and myself.  
I am an expert and I am a professional.  
I stand by ready to deploy, engage, and destroy  
the enemies of the United States of America in  
close combat.  
I am a guardian of freedom and  
the American way of life.  
I am an American Soldier.*

With sad hearts, we say good-bye to fellow Arizona Army National Guard soldier Sgt Elijah Tai Wah Wong, 42, of the 363rd Explosive Ordnance Company (EOD), who died February 9, 2004, in Sanjar, Iraq while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. Wong, a resident of Mesa, AZ, leaves behind a wife, two daughters and one son.

"It is times like these when the closeness developed within National Guard units are both a blessing and a curse. It is the very strength of our friendships and bonds that make his loss so poignant, yet it also helps ease our anguish to be among such a tight brotherhood as a unit like ours," said Response NCO, Sfc Cliff "Way" Schiller.

Wong had a love for everything military and weapons. He could not wait to go to war. He had his bags packed weeks before departing. Wong was still in EOD training when his unit was activated. At first Wong was not suppose to go to Iraq. "He would call everyday to someone trying to find out how he could meet up with his unit. He believed he needed to be with them," said his wife,

Lizeth Wong.

Mrs. Wong added, "I used to joke with him about having gun powder in his blood. I miss him but I know he died a good death. He died doing what he loved."



When friends would ask Mrs. Wong how she felt about her husband going to war she replied, "He has to go, he has to follow his heart." She feels he always supported her and this was her chance to support him. Mrs. Wong describes her husband as a kind, gentle family man who loved his children. She says her husband and son, "Were like two drops of water." He shared his love of learning with his children. They went to the library together weekly before he was activated. "We used our library card as often as most people use their driver's license," Mrs. Wong explains.

"He seemed like a quiet person until you got to know him or started talking politics. He loved to debate and did not let things go until his point got across," Mrs. Wong fondly remembers.

Friends from his civilian job as an adult probation officer for Maricopa county remember Wong's dedication to his work. His civilian supervisor, Sally Maurizi said, "Wong had a deep passion for his work both in the county and in the Guard."

The 153rd Artillery Brigade continues to honor Wong by accepting voluntary donations for his family. There are donation boxes in the BDE S1 shop and the Office of the Chief of Staff (Ms. Bosson). Checks should be made payable to Lizeth Wong. Cash donations are also accepted.

*The 363rd EOD reduces or eliminates the hazards of explosives and supplies explosive ordnance disposal support. Unit missions include: Operation Desert Shield and Storm in the Persian Gulf, Operation Joint-Forge in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah and Operation Noble Eagle.*



# Heliograph

Volume XXV Issue 3

**123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**  
**5636 E. McDowell Rd**  
**Phoenix, Arizona 85008**  
**602.267.2652**  
**DSN 853.2652**  
**Heliograph@az.ngb.army.mil**

## Command Staff:

Major General David P. Rataczak  
 Assistant Adjutant General - Army

Brigadier General Richard Maxon  
 Assistant Adjutant General - Army

Major Eileen K. Bienz  
 State Public Affairs Officer

Major William Willhoite  
 123rd MPAD Commander

## Heliograph Staff:

Sergeant Thomas Quigg - Editor in Chief  
 (Email: booq1@cox.net)

Sergeant Willie Jones - Journalist  
 Specialist. Crystal Reidy - Journalist

Specialist Matt Murphy - Layout and Design

## The Mission of Army Public Affairs:

Public Affairs fulfills the Army's obligation to keep the American people and the Army informed, and helps to establish the conditions that lead to confidence in America's Army and its readiness to conduct operations in peacetime, conflict and war. The 123rd MPAD supports the Army's Public Affairs Mission and extends it at a state level to meet the needs of the people of Arizona and the Arizona Army National Guardsmen.

The Heliograph is an authorized publication under the provisions of AR 360-81 and is published for the Arizona Army National Guard by the 123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, 5425 E. McDowell Rd., Phoenix, Arizona, 85008-3425.

The Heliograph is a quarterly publication. The circulation is approximately 4,000. The publication is printed within government guidelines and is distributed free via U.S. Mail to all members of the Arizona Army National Guard.

The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army or the Arizona Army National Guard. Any unsolicited submissions will be subject to revision due to space limitations, security, accuracy and propriety.

To submit stories, photographs, artwork or make suggestions on how we can better serve our readership, please e-mail us at Heliograph@az.ngb.army.mil. For additional information call 602-267-2879 and leave a message. Urgent matters or breaking stories, please contact Sgt. Quigg at 480-250-0493.

## A Message From General Maxon



It hardly seems possible, but we are already in the second quarter of calendar year 2004. Weren't the holidays just a few weeks ago? Shouldn't spring training still be underway? In many ways this last year seems like a blur. When talking to our soldiers, I keep mentioning that our organization has a million moving parts. Lately they all seem to be moving at the same time. I want to take a moment and reflect back on the past few months and share some of my thoughts on our future.

In recent months we witnessed the mobilization and deployment of five more Arizona units into Iraq. In addition, we are fortunate to have several units return safely home from Iraqi Freedom I. We are also anticipating the return of a couple of more in the next few weeks.

As our soldiers return I have opportunity to speak with some of them as the echo sentiments of gladness to be home. Equally important however, is the strong feeling these dedicated service men and women exhibit that their mission overseas was important, honorable, and noble. While these soldiers are not anxious to repeat their recent experience, they are not disappointed in the least to have served their country and participated in a significant historical moment.

We are in the process of standing up a new Military Police Company that will most likely be mobilized prior to the end of the year. We also received notice that several other units were placed on alert. As information becomes available we will share it accordingly. *(For a complete list of alerted, deploying, and returning units, see p 8.)*

## Letters From Our Readers

Dear Heliograph,

Thank you for a wonderful article on "Four Deuce Return From The Other Desert" by CPT. Bruce Arnoldussen.

I'm a family member of the 2222<sup>nd</sup> transportation company from Nogales, AZ. My husband Sgt Hector Baldenegro enjoys being in the Guard. He was also deployed with the unit in 1990-1991 Desert Storm. This time it was different (Operation Iraqi Freedom) Because we were expecting our first child. But we kept in touch as much as we could by e-mail, photos, mail and packages.

When my husband arrived in Fort Bliss, Texas on December 8, 2003. It was the first time he was holding Yazmin Liberty at one month... It was love at first sight. We left for Arizona and we reunited back home on December 13, 2003 in Tucson at the Silverlake Armory. He was home for good until the next deployment.

On the page where all "The Faces and Emotions Of The Guard Family." My husband is pictured

Regrettably, there is always tragedy associated with war. Earlier this year we received the sad news of the death of SGT Elijah Wong of the 363rd Explosive Ordnance Detachment. Wong was killed while participating in a weapons buy-back program encouraging Iraqi civilians to turn in weapons. A mortar round exploded as munitions were loaded onto a truck killing him instantly. Governor Napolitano shared words of condolence and inspiration at Wong's funeral. We appreciate the Governor for her kind words and continued support of the National Guard.

General Rataczak is working hard to bring more force structure to the Arizona Army National Guard. New units will bring more opportunities and new career fields into our organization. As our organization continues to evolve, it reaffirms it is an exciting time to be a soldier.

It takes a special person to be a soldier in the National Guard. Not everyone can do it. The demands are great, the duties are difficult at times, and the material rewards are few. Our sense of pride and the absolute first class quality of service we give is our greatest reward. Being a soldier is truly "an affair of the heart." There is something special inside each person who puts on the uniform. We desire to serve and be a part of the greatest military force ever known. Our job and our duty is never ending.

To all who serve within our ranks I express my appreciation. To family members and friends of those who are deployed, keep the faith, we bid your loves a safe and speedy return. As our work is far from over, I bid you all to stay with us and express my deepest gratitude for your dedicated service and the great job you do.

with Yazmin Liberty in his arms. First page bottom right corner. She is wearing her red, white, blue outfit and white ribbon on her head.

Thank you kindly again

Yolik, Hector, and Yazmin Liberty Baldenegro

Dear Heliograph,

Thank you for the article you wrote about Bill Mauldin for the Heliograph. I was really frustrated because so many people seemed unconcerned about so famous a man starting his military career in the Arizona Army National Guard.

You did a great job and I love the cartoon that accompanied the article.

Sincerely,  
 Edie Bova

*The Heliograph welcomes comments and letters from its readers. Please feel free to submit information to the that will help us serve our readership community to the fullest potential. Thank you for your submissions.*

# The Arizona Army National Guard Strategic Plan - 2004

The Arizona Army National Guard (AZ ARNG) Strategic Plan provides short-, mid- and long-term guidance and direction to the organization in its quest to maintain itself as a quality organization.

### Mission

In war and peace the Arizona Army National Guard provides military forces that are “Always Ready – Always There” to accomplish Federal, State, and Community missions.

- **Federal Mission:** When directed by the President, provided military forces to support US involvement in armed conflict, contingency operations, emergencies and homeland security.
- **State Mission:** When directed by the Governor, soldiers will serve and protect the citizens of the State.
- **Community Mission:** Participate in approved local and state programs that improve the quality of life for the citizens of Arizona.

### Vision

A soldier focused organization that will grow and succeed in all missions.

### Organizational Motto

“Always Ready – Always There”

### Army Values

The Arizona Army National Guard embraces the Army Values as individual soldiers values. The Army Values are:

- **Loyalty:** Bear true faith and allegiance to the U.S. Constitution, the Army, your unit, and other soldiers.
- **Duty:** Fulfill your obligations.
- **Respect:** Treat people as they should be treated.
- **Selfless Service:** Put the welfare of the nation, the Army, and your subordinates before your own.
- **Honor:** Live up to all the Army values.
- **Integrity:** Do what’s right, legally and morally.
- **Personal Courage:** Face fear, danger, or adversity (Physical or Moral)

### Organizational Values

Organizational Values are the standards that provide a common direction and represent what we want our organization to be. The Organizational Values for the AZ Army National Guard are:

- **Customer Service** – Committed to meet customer needs.
- **Empowerment** – Providing individuals the freedom, authority and the resources to do their jobs.
- **Stewardship** – Safeguard and effectively utilize the financial, natural and human resources entrusted to our care.
- **Teamwork** – Working together to make things better.
- **Accountability** – Standards and expectations are effectively communicated and leaders at all levels are charged and held accountable to achieve and maintain those standards.
- **Soldier Focused** – Foster a Command Climate which recognizes soldiers and their families as our most important resources.
- **Merit Based Advancement** – Ensure soldiers are fairly and objectively evaluated and selected for advancement.

### Strategic Goals

- Provide Trained and Ready Units
- Effectively Manage Resources
- Enhance and Promote Soldier and Family programs
- Increase Force Structure
- Add Value to the State

## Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Office Opens at Papago

We are proud to announce the opening of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Office at Papago Park Military Reservation (PPMR) at 5636 East McDowell Road in Phoenix.

The mission of the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs MWR Office is to enhance the quality of life and increase readiness by continually providing customer-focused recreational, social, and educational services for all members of the PPMR community.

Rebecca Felty has been hired to coordinate the MWR Department. Ms. Felty has over 15 years of recreation and special events experience, including several years with the MWR Department at Naval Air Field Atsugi, Japan.

Ms. Felty can be reached at 602-267-2813 or [Rebecca.Felty@azdema.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Felty@azdema.gov).

The MWR Department is soliciting suggestions for activities.

Please send your suggestions to [demamwr@azdema.gov](mailto:demamwr@azdema.gov)

## Arizona Army National Guard Phone Numbers

### Carlson Travel

602-273-1898 Government Travel  
480-894-5533 Personal Travel

### Chaplain

623-584-7417

### Clothing Sales Store

602-275-8307

### Education Services

602-267-2885

### Employment Verification

602-267-2788 Army  
602-267-2787 Federal  
602-267-2808 State

### Family Readiness (Soldier Support)

602-267-2593

### Fire Dept

602-267-2612 Papago  
602-267-3231 Camp Navajo  
602-267-5972 WAATS

### Guard Gate (security)

602-267-2428

### Help Desk (computer problems)

602-267-2979

### HRO (Human Resource Officer)

602-267-2790

### ID Cards (military)

602-267-2750

### Inspector General (IG)

602-267-2670

### JAG (military lawyer)

602-267-2669

### Museum

602-267-2676

### MWR Office

602-267-2813

### Payroll

602-267-2883 Army

### Personnel

602-267-2948 AGR  
602-267-2308 Enlisted  
602-267-2709 Officer

### Recruiting and Retention

602-267-2800 / 2702 Army

### Travel Pay

602-267-2884 Federal  
602-267-2396 State





# The 258th Rear Operations Center (RAOC) in Iraq

Contributed by Major Tony Ulrich

## Pre-Deployment

The 258th Rear Area Operations Center (RAOC) was alerted for Operation Enduring Freedom on December 26, 2002. The unit was activated on January 2, 2003 and moved to mobilization station on January 5, 2003. The unit was validated for deployment on January 16, 2003 and deployed for Kuwait on February 2, 2003.



Prior to departing mobilization station, the RAOC learned it would be supporting the 3rd Infantry Division. The 3rd Infantry Division from Ft. Stewart, Georgia was headed to Kuwait and would become the main effort in the mission to remove Saddam Hussein's regime. The RAOC was able to learn that the 24 CSG, also from Ft. Stewart, Georgia had a habitual relationship with 3ID and was able to further confirm that the RAOC would indeed be assigned or attached to the 24 CSG, in support of the 3ID.

The unit's equipment was prepared for rail-load on January 7, 2003. The RAOC equipment did not get rail-loaded until January 24 and had a typical 21-day transit across the Atlantic Ocean.



## Reception, Staging, and Onward Movement

The RAOC arrived at the Kuwait International Airport or Aerial Port of Debarkation at approximately 1800 hours on 3 February 2003. After initial in processing, the RAOC boarded a civilian bus with military police escorts and traveled to Camp Virginia, Kuwait arriving about 0100 hours on 4 February 2003.

During Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOI), the RAOC was assigned to



the 13 Corps Support Battalion (a subordinate element of the 24 Corps Support Group (CSG)) for life support. The 13 CSG was very responsive with providing cots, transportation, and other life support while the unit waited on equipment to arrive in country.

While undergoing RSOI, the RAOC linked-up with the V Corps Rear had all the soldiers "read-on" to the Corps 1003V war-plan. The RAOC also linked-up with the 24 CSG headquarters, located about an hour's drive southeast at Camp Doha, Kuwait. After making introductions and gaining assurance that the RAOC would be assigned to the 24 CSG, key leaders made the daily journey to Camp Doha to participate alongside with the CSG headquarters conducting the Military Decision Making Process (MDMP) on the 1003V war-plan.

On February 17, 2003, the RAOC relocated to Camp New York, Kuwait with the assistance of the 13 CSB to continue RSOI and to get fully integrated with the 24 CSG headquarters. Camp New York was about 20 dusty miles north of Camp Virginia. At Camp New York, the unit co-located with the 24 CSG headquarters. The two units established a common life support area and headquarters. The need to co-locate the life support area and head-

quarters was partially due to necessity (the RAOC still had no equipment other than the basic survival gear brought over as To-Accompany-Troops (TAT) baggage and partially due to forward thinking by the RAOC and CSG commanders.

On 23 February 2003, the unit's equipment arrived in Kuwait at the Port of Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait. A RAOC detail of 16 personnel deployed to the Sea Port of Debarkation to assist with the equipment download and to recover the unit's seven High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), 2 – Ton Cargo Truck, and two CONEX containers of unit equipment. The unit's



vehicles and equipment were split between two ships oddly enough. Amazingly, all the equipment was operational and there was no frustrated cargo. For those personnel that waited back at Camp New York, it was a great sight to see those vehicles and personnel arrive on the evening of February 25, 2003 during a typical Kuwaiti-dust storm. After rushing to re-configure the vehicles and to create combat configured loads on each of the vehicles, the unit was finally done with RSOI and ready for integration into combat operations.





# An Operations Report-Part One of a Three Part Series



## Ready For Action - Integration

The RAOC Tactical Operations Center (TOC) was established inside the CSG's TOC, in a wing of the "H-shaped" military tent. This arrangement worked well because it facilitated better coordination during MDMP refinement and more effective staff communication. Typically, RAOC's and CSG's set up on close proximity to each other, but don't occupy the same TOC areas. The CSG Commander was receptive to the joint arrangement with prompting from the RAOC that it had worked well at a recent I Corps War-fighter exercise in Oct/Nov 2002.

Being co-located allowed the RAOC to share communication assets such as the SIPRNET (secure computer network), NIPRNET (non-secure computer network), signal nodes for DNVF phones, cable television (we got FOX News International throughout the operation; our only real-time link to world events). Most importantly the RAOC and CSG shared RTO responsibilities, which gave the RAOC direct access to track the battle on the TACSAT radio. The TACSAT proved to be the primary voice communication system at the BN/BDE/DIV level. Smaller tactical units relied on



SINGARS, but SINGARS and phones were a secondary means at the higher HQ levels due to long lines of communication or geographical distances between the headquarters elements. While at Camp New York, the RAOC continued to conduct MDMP with 24 CSG, 3ID, and V Corps.

The RAOC also developed base defense and troop lay down plans for the future logistical support bases the CSG would establish to support the 3ID during offensive operations. This concept of support was an unusual task, as RAOC's and CSG's do not normally operate in the divisional area of operation.

The 3ID was designated by V Corps to be the main effort, to sweep up the left side of Iraq through Karbala Gap and to establish a cordon around Baghdad, with aid of United States Marine Corps to east of Baghdad and aid of the 101 Air Assault (101 AA) and 82nd Airborne (82 ABN) Divisions.

The RAOC began 24-hour continuous operations while at Camp New York, conducting current operations and planning future operations for liberating Iraq. Current operations involved helping the three CSG subordinate battalions develop base defense plans as they staged in their Tactical Assembly Areas outside the established base camps. The RAOC also developed a Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for defense of the 24 CSG headquarters. Throughout the pre-war phase at Camp New York, the RAOC continually developed a relationship with the CSG and 3ID REAR.



This helped the RAOC gain credibility early in the mission. The CSG was impressed by the RAOC's enthusiasm, professionalism, and willingness to chip-in for even the most mundane tasks, such as filling over 2,000 sandbags. In the final days at Camp New York, Iraq launched several surface-to-surface missiles towards Kuwait. This caused Camp New York personnel to scramble for cover in the bunkers and to don their assigned Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) chemical defense equipment. The closest missile landed about 10k away.

To support the monumental attack across Iraq to Baghdad, 3 COSCOM (3CC) and 24 CSG developed a logistical concept of support that placed high

priority on keeping the maneuver elements fueled. The logistical plan called for logistics bases and convoy support centers west of the Euphrates River between Kuwait and Baghdad. The RAOC developed defense plans for Forward Log Base (FLB) Cedar, Logistical Support Area (LSA) Bushmaster, and did preliminary troop lay down and base defense planning for FLB Pine and FLB Elm (which the 24 CSG never established due to how the battlefield evolved during combat operations).

The RAOC developed battle-handover plans in coordination with the follow-on RAOC's that would backfill the 258 RAOC as the 3ID Rear Boundary continued to shift north towards Baghdad. The 258 RAOC would always be the most northern-deployed RAOC, after conducting relief-in-places with the 317 RAOC at FLB Cedar (which later evolved into LSA Adder // FLB Cedar), and then by the 309 RAOC at LSA Bushmaster, and by the 345 RAOC at CSC Peterbuilt. (After cessation of ground combat operations in late May, V Corps decided to backfill the 317 RAOC at FLB Cedar with the 345 RAOC and to have the 317 RAOC once again relieve the 258 RAOC at FLB Dogwood.)

Due to the speed and distance of planned offensive operations and tailored logistics-support packages, the RAOC task organized itself into two elements: the RAOC (JUMP) with 8 personnel and 3 vehicles and RAOC (MAIN) with 17 personnel and 4 vehicles. The RAOC also attached two soldiers to the 3 ID REAR to serve as LNO's and ensure effective communication and coordination with the division.

The CSG task organized its logistical classes of supply and services into three elements (the Cedar Package, the Peterbuilt Package, and the Bushmaster package). To support their logistical packages, the CSG divided its headquarters into a CSG (FWD) and CSG (MAIN) elements. The RAOC/CSG elements would leapfrog each other northward, establishing logistics bases from Kuwait to Baghdad. Both RAOC elements would jump forward, just hours behind the lead brigades from 3ID. Splitting the RAOC into two stand-alone segments required innovation, cross training of unit members, and initiative. No other RAOC has been known to conduct this type of split-operation during simulated or actual combat operations.



## About the Author

*The 258th RAOC Operations Report is provided by Major Tony Ulrich. Major Ulrich cataloged the experience of his unit and how they spent a year representing the Arizona Army National Guard during Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

*This is the first part of a three part series. The full report by Major Ulrich will appear in the next two editions of the Heliograph.*

# Promotion Selection Boards - What You Need to Know

One of the responsibilities of the Officer Personnel Division within the DCSPER is to conduct promotion selection boards and establish order of merit lists for field grade officers, battalion command and attendance at the Senior Service College (War College) and the Command and General Staff Course. This article will provide a broad overview of the typical State board process in an attempt to make officers aware of how these boards work and encourage more officers to come in and review their records.

Regardless of the board, letters will go out to soldiers determined to initially be eligible 60-90 days in advance of the board. The letters will go to the soldier's AKO account. AKO accounts are required for all military members of the AZ ARNG and this is the most time and cost-effective measure we have available to inform the eligible soldiers. This has also provided benefits to deployed soldiers as they may not be receiving correspondence sent to their SIDPERS home of record.

The notification letter will tell them that they have met the minimum eligibility criteria (typically time in grade) to be considered for promotion. The soldier's MACOM is also notified and copies of the email are placed in the soldier's military personnel file. The letter will explain that there are a number of requirements they should take care of before the board to ensure the board members can make a well-informed and accurate decision based upon the quality and accuracy of the soldier's records.

The individual has four main responsibilities to successfully prepare for a board: performing a records review to ensure they are complete and correct, getting a current DA Photo, providing a current biographical summary and submitting a letter to the President of the Board which highlights pertinent information that may not be obvious upon an impartial review of the records.

The records review is important because it provides the officer an opportunity to come in at their convenience and work directly with a member

of the Officer Personnel staff. It validates in the soldier's mind whether or not what they thought was in their records is actually there and allows time for missing documents to be provided in time for the board. One lesson often learned by junior officers is that they actually have two sets of records: One with all their certificates, security and emergency contact information (the 201 file) and one that contains all things specifically related to their status as an officer (OER's, photo, biographical summary, civilian transcripts, etc.). After their records are updated the officer will certify that their DA Form 2-1 reflects correct information as of the current date.

The most common question heard during board preparation is "What is a current DA Photo?" The answer depends on your perspective. It can be when your grade changes, when you earn an additional medal, when the previous photo is six (or 12, or 24, or 60) months old or at any other time. The answer from Officer Personnel is "Between the time you are notified of the board and the time of the board." That's actually the answer to when all of these items should be taken care of, but it always comes up here.

Ensuring a current biographical summary is in the soldier's records is another good reason to schedule an appointment with Officer Personnel. It provides a quick list of information to the board members (years of military and commissioned officer experience, civilian occupation, listing of assignments, etc.) and needs to be made a standard part of ensuring the records are current.

The fourth main responsibility is the submission of a letter to the board. The second most common question heard during board preparation is "What should I include in the letter?" Examples of things that are appropriate to include in a letter to the board are civilian responsibilities that may indicate potential or performance at the next higher grade, specific goals and other items the soldier thinks board members should know about. This is a critical piece of the packet as no soldier makes

an appearance for the board and the letter provides the best opportunity for the soldier to present that information to the board. The letter is not to be used as a forum to go into a dissertation about OER issues (referred, missing, etc.), the name of the soldier's dog or anything else not pertinent to the board members.

One of the implied duties within the Officer Personnel branch is to actively work with everyone who comes in through our doors and do whatever we can to ensure their success on the boards. About the only things we can't do for the soldier are to go get their photo, write their biographical summary or write their letter for the board. These are some of the main areas the board members will key in on during their review of the soldier's records as it will help answer their question of "Did the soldier do everything reasonably within their power to help me make an assessment of them?"

Getting ready for promotion boards is ultimately the responsibility of the soldier. It's where the soldier can demonstrate initiative and provide board members a clear and accurate picture and provides the forum for them to convince the board that they are ready for the duties and responsibilities at the next higher grade. Failure on the part of the soldier to take care of these recommended preparatory tasks also sends a message to the board members, but it's likely not the one the soldier wants to have sent. The adage of "If the soldier doesn't care what their records look like, why should anyone else?" applies and is always discussed during the board after action review. That AAR, along with the actual board itself, will be addressed in the next issue of the Heliograph.

*MAJ Glen E. Law is the Personnel Management Officer within the Officer Personnel Division under the Deputy Chief of Staff, Personnel, Joint Forces Headquarters. He is also the Chief Financial Officer for the United States Property and Fiscal Office for Arizona.*

## Heliograph Readership Questionnaire

	Yes	Somewhat	No
Do you find the stories in the Heliograph interesting?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you consider the Heliograph an important source of information?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the Heliograph provide information that is valuable to you and your family?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do you receive the Heliograph in the mail?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have you seen the Heliograph on the Internet?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please take a moment to write any comments or suggestions you think would improve the Heliograph as a source of information and entertainment for you, your family and your soldiers.

Please turn in your questionnaire to your unit staff to be forwarded via inter-office mail to the 123rd MPAD.





# Soldiers Drill For Water and Prepare for Tour of Duty

By Spc Crystal Reidy

Everyone expects to work hard when they go to war, but the soldiers of the 257th Engineering Equipment Team didn't realize they were going to have to work so hard just to have the opportunity. When the unit left for Fort Bliss, Texas on December 11, 2003 they were not combat ready. They had lost four experienced drillers and had four new replacements. All of the replacements needed Mission Essential Task List (METL) training.

"This is not training that can be done in a classroom," explains Sfc Ben H. Coley, a member of the drilling team.

The training mission for the team required a drilling project which included a place to drill, permits, and materials. The team worked to a January 25, 2004 deadline to become combat ready. Coley contacted Bob Way Drilling who provided the permits to do the training on the property of Dennis C. Pickens. On December 31, 2004 the project received approval and on January 2, 2004 the 257th Engineering Team was back in Arizona working on their METL training. The

training was expected to be completed in time to meet their January 25, 2004 schedule. They headed back to Ft. Bliss to finish preparing for deployment. "There was a lot of cooperation in a short amount of time to get this training completed," said Coley

The soldiers are very positive about the new changes. Spc Hershel Allen Jr. says he looks forward to, "building friendships and sharing knowledge," with new soldiers in the unit. The soldiers coming into the unit seem just as optimistic. "Coming into a new unit gives me a chance to learn something new and share stuff from my last unit," said Sgt Shane D. Banks.

During missions the unit works in two drilling teams 24 hours a day. The first tower drills for water for 12 hours while the second tower rests and then they rotate allowing the second tower to drill while the first tower rests.

"Teamwork is very important in this unit," explains Banks who is a tower leader.



Photo by Sgt. Thomas Quigg

*Sgt Shane D. Banks of the 257th Engineer Team*

## Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Spring Softball Tournament



**The winning teams of the MWR Spring Softball Tournament (From R-L) First Place- Gunfighters, Second Place- Paperpushers, and Third Place- Scrubs.**



Papago Park Military Reservation hosted its first Spring Softball Tournament on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28, 2004 at Bushmaster Field. Five teams battled for first place while their many fans and families braved above average temperatures with concessions provided by the 257<sup>th</sup> Engineering Detachment. The Gunfighters went into the final game armed with plenty of deserved confidence after sweeping every previous game but the Paperpushers gave them a surprising run for their money. Ultimately, the Gunfighters won out by one run after a nail-biter of a game.

The next tournament will be the Veteran's Day Tournament on November 13 and 14, 2004 at Bushmaster Field on Papago Park Military Reservation; so start getting your teams together now! For more information on the tournament, leagues or Bushmaster Field rental please call the MWR Office at 602-267-2813.





By LTC Daniel Butler

This story is about three accountants who doubted their three engineer friends. They were traveling by train to a conference. The accountants bought three tickets, but the engineers only bought one. “How are three people going to travel on only one ticket?” an accountant asked.

“Watch and you’ll see,” said an engineer.

# A Message From The 981st Troop Command

They all boarded the train. The accountants took their seats, but the three engineers crammed into a restroom and closed the door behind them. The train departed the station and soon the conductor came through the car asking for tickets. He knocked on the restroom door and said, “Ticket, please.” The door opened a crack and a single arm emerges with a ticket in hand. The conductor took it and moved on.

The accountants agree that this is a rather clever idea so after the conference, they decide to duplicate the engineers’ feat. They bought only one ticket, but are astonished when the engineers bought no ticket at all! “How are you going to travel without a ticket?” the accountants ask.

“Watch and you’ll see,” reply the engineers.

When they boarded the train, the accountants crammed into a restroom with their ticket while the three engineers did the same in a nearby restroom. After the train departed the station, one

of the engineers left the restroom and walked over to the restroom where the accountants were hiding. He knocked on the door and said, “Ticket, please.”

There are always people who are attempting to get by as cheaply as possible, with as little work as necessary, by exerting a minimum amount of energy and striving to come out on top in all circumstances. Reality is, when a person cheats in one area, they will also swindle in another. Those individuals are not trustworthy and cause turmoil to others.

God expects each person to be honest and upright in all aspects of life. It is not limited to business, but also to play, relationships, finances and the National Guard.

Is there an area of your life that you are attempting to take short cuts?

**Now is the time to correct your behavior and live as God expects.**

# Heliograph

123rd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

PRESORT STD

U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Utica, NY  
Permit No. 83

## Units On Alert

158th Corps Support Battalion

2/180th Field Artillery Battalion

159th Finance Detachment

Company C, First Battalion,  
189th Aviation

## Units Deployed(ing)

259th Engineer Detachment

258th Engineer Company

160th Finance Detachment

3666th Maintenance Company

852nd Rear Area Operation Center

Detachment 2, Company D, 140th Aviation  
Intermediate Maintenance (limited personnel)

## Units Returned(ing)

Company G, 285th Air Traffic Services Co.

2222nd Transportation Company

855th Military Police Company

2220th Transportation Company

1404th Transportation Company

363rd Explosive Ordinance Detachment

258th Rear Area Operations Center

356th Signal Company